

Alan H. Weinreb, Esq.  
THE MARGOLIN & WEINREB LAW GROUP, LLP  
165 Eileen Way, Suite 101  
Syosset, New York 11791  
Telephone: (516) 921-3838  
[alan@nyfclaw.com](mailto:alan@nyfclaw.com)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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EMPIRE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

-against-

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

MYRA CLARKE; JONATHAN FRANCIS; NEW  
YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD;  
NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION  
BUREAU; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF  
NEW YORK,

Defendant(s).

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Plaintiff, Empire Community Development, LLC (“Empire” or “Plaintiff”), by and through its attorneys, The Margolin & Weinreb Law Group, LLP as and for its Verified Complaint of foreclosure of the premises and mortgage against Defendants Myra Clarke, Jonathan Francis, New York City Environmental Control Board, New York Transit Adjudication Bureau and Criminal Court of the City of New York (collectively the “Defendants”), respectfully alleges upon information and belief as follows:

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is an action brought pursuant to New York Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Section 1301 *et seq.*, to foreclose on a mortgage encumbering the property commonly known as 116-25 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11434 known on the Queens County Tax Map as Section: 53, Block: 12406, Lot: 121 in the County of Queens and State of New York (the “Subject Property”). The Legal Description of the property is annexed hereto as Exhibit “A”.

**PARTIES**

2. Empire Community Development, LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Empire Community Development, LLC is a single member limited liability company, whose sole member is Reliant Holdings Group, LLC. Reliant Holdings Group, LLC has three members, Robert Paulus, David Van Horn and John Sweeney, each of whom is a citizen of the United States and resident of the State of Pennsylvania. For the purposes of diversity, Empire Community Development, LLC is a citizen of Pennsylvania.
3. Myra Clarke, upon information and belief, is a resident and citizen of the State of New York, having an address at 116-25 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11434 or 211-18 Hollis Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11429. Myra Clarke is a necessary party defendant to this action by virtue of the fact that she (i) was present at the time of the execution of the Note and Mortgage (as such terms are defined below); (ii) is the borrower of the loan; and (iii) is the Mortgagor under the Mortgage.
4. Jonathan Francis, upon information and belief, is a resident and citizen of the State of New York, having an address at 116-25 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11434 or 211-18 Hollis Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11429. Jonathan Francis is a necessary party defendant to this action by virtue of the fact that he (i) was present at the time of the execution of the Note and Mortgage (as such terms are defined below); (ii) is the borrower of the loan; and (iii) is the Mortgagor under the Mortgage.
5. New York City Environmental Control Board is an administrative tribunal of the City of New York, located at 1250 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10001. For purposes of diversity jurisdiction, it is a citizen of New York State. It is a necessary party defendant to

this action because it is a judgment creditor by virtue of Environmental Control Board Violations filed against the borrower(s) and/or property, which are subordinate to Plaintiff's Mortgage. See judgments as part of Exhibit "F".

6. New York City Transit Adjudication Bureau is an administrative tribunal of the City of New York, located at 29 Gallatin Place, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201. For purposes of diversity jurisdiction, it is a citizen of New York State. It is a necessary party defendant to this action because it is a judgment creditor by virtue of Transit Adjudication Bureau Violations filed against the borrower(s) and/or property, which are subordinate to Plaintiff's Mortgage. See judgments as part of Exhibit "F".
7. Criminal Court of the City of New York, upon information and belief, has an address of 125-01 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. It is a necessary party defendant to this action because it is a judgment creditor by virtue of Queens County Court judgment(s) against the borrower(s) and/or property, which are subordinate to the Plaintiff's mortgage. See judgments as part of Exhibit "F".
8. Each of the above-named defendants has or claimed to have or may claim to have some interest in or lien upon said mortgaged premises or some part thereof, which interest or lien, if any, has accrued subsequent to, and is subject and subordinate to, the lien of said Mortgage.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. This Action is between citizens of different states. The amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds \$75,000.00. Therefore, jurisdiction is based upon diversity of citizenship pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332.

10. Venue is deemed proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391. A substantial part of the events giving rise to this action took place within the jurisdiction of this court and the Subject Property is located in this district.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

11. This action is brought to foreclose a mortgage made by Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis set out as follows: Mortgage dated February 7, 2007, made by Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for GE Money Bank to secure the sum of \$113,000.00 and interest, recorded in CRFN: 2007000127257 in the Queens County Clerk's Office on March 8, 2007. Said lien covers premises known as 116-25 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11434. A copy of the Mortgage is annexed as Exhibit "B".
12. On February 7, 2007, Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis executed and delivered a Note to GE Money Bank in the amount of \$113,000.00. The Note was transferred by the affixation of a proper endorsement to the Note. A copy of the Note with endorsement and Affidavit of Note Possession are annexed as Exhibit "C".
13. The Mortgage was assigned by Assignments of Mortgage as follows:
- a) **Assignor:** Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for GE Money Bank  
**Assignee:** Empire Community Development, LLC  
**Dated:** April 29, 2019, **Recorded:** February 18, 2020  
CRFN: 2020000061425
- A copy of the Assignment is annexed hereto as Exhibit "D".
14. Any applicable recording tax was duly paid at the time of recording said mentioned mortgage.

15. Plaintiff is in physical possession and is the owner and holder of said original Note and Mortgage.
16. Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis have failed to comply with the terms and provisions of the said Mortgage and said instruments secured by the Mortgage, by failing to make the Monthly Payments due on July 15, 2016, and the default continues to date.
17. Plaintiff has complied with the contractual provisions in the loan documents in that Default Notices to cure were issued on July 15, 2021 to Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis (the “Default Notice”) advising of possible acceleration of the loan and that by virtue of their continuing default under the Note and Mortgage, if the arrears are not cured, Plaintiff may declare that the outstanding principal balance due under the Note, together with all accrued interest thereon is immediately due and payable. The 90-day notice provided by RPAPL §1304(1) was issued on July 15, 2021 to Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis (the “90 Day Notice”). Plaintiff has complied with the registration requirements of RPAPL §1306(1). Copies of the Default Notice and 90 Day Notice with proof of mailing and registration are annexed hereto as Exhibit “E”.
18. Pursuant to RPAPL Section 1302 as amended, the plaintiff has complied with all the provisions of Section 595a and Section 6-1 of the Banking Law and RPAPL Section 1304, except where it is exempt from doing so.
19. Plaintiff is in compliance with Section Nine-X of the New York State banking law, if applicable.
20. As of the date herein, Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis have failed to respond to the Default Notice and the 90 Day Notice.

21. Due to the above-described default, Defendants Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis are indebted to Plaintiff pursuant to the terms of the Note and Mortgage for:
  - a. The unpaid principal amount due under the Note, and all accrued and unpaid interest and late charges which sum as of April 18, 2022, amounts to \$182,580.82;
  - b. Attorney's fees and other costs and disbursements, payable to Empire Community Development, LLC under the terms of the Note, which will accrue until the amount due and payable under the Note is paid in full; and
  - c. Any and all additional fees that are due or may become due and payable as provided under the terms and conditions of the Note and Mortgage are paid in full.
22. Plaintiff requests that in the event that this action will proceed to judgment of foreclosure and sale, said premises should be sold subject to the following:
  - a. Any state of facts that an inspection of the premises would disclose.
  - b. Any state of facts that an accurate survey of the premises would show.
  - c. Covenants, restrictions, easements and public utility agreements of record, if any.
  - d. Building and zoning ordinances of the municipality in which the Mortgaged premises are located and possible violations of same.
  - e. Any right of tenants or person in possession of the subject premises.
  - f. Any equity of redemption of the United States of America to redeem the premises within 120 days from date of sale.
  - g. Prior lien(s) of record, if any.
23. In the event that Plaintiff possesses any other lien(s) against said mortgaged premises either by way of judgment, junior mortgage or otherwise, Plaintiff requests that such other liens(s) shall not be merged in Plaintiff's cause(s) of action set forth in this Complaint, but that

Plaintiff shall be permitted to enforce said other lien(s) and/or seek determination of priority thereof in any independent action(s) or proceeding(s), including, without limitation, any surplus money proceedings.

24. Plaintiff shall not be deemed to have waived, altered, released or changed the election hereinfores made, by reason of any payment after the commencement of this action, of any or all of the defaults mentioned herein, and such election shall continue and remain effective.
25. No other action or proceeding has been commenced or maintained or is now pending at law or otherwise for the foreclosure of said Mortgage or for recovery of the said sum secured by said Note and Mortgage or any part thereof.

**WHEREFORE**, on the first cause of action, the Plaintiff demands judgment that the Defendants and each of them and all persons claiming under them or any of them, subsequent to the commencement of this action and the filing of a notice of pendency thereof, be barred and foreclosed of and from all estate, right, title, interest, claim, lien and equity of redemption of, in and to the said mortgaged premises and each and every part and parcel thereof; that the premises may be decreed to be sold in one parcel, according to law, subject to the terms set forth in this complaint; that the monies arising from the sale thereof may be bought into Court; that the Plaintiff may be paid the amount due on the Note and Mortgage as hereinfores set forth, with interest and late charges to the time of such payment and the expenses of such sale, plus reasonable attorney's fees, together with the costs, allowances and disbursements of this action, and together with any sums from the dates incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to any term or provision of the Note and Mortgage set forth in this complaint, or to protect the lien of Plaintiff's Mortgage, together with interest upon said sums from the dates of the respective payments and advances thereof, so far as the amount of such monies properly applicable thereto will pay the same; that this Court forthwith

appoint a receiver of the rents and profits of said premises during the pendency of this action with the usual powers and duties; and that Defendants Myra Clarke and Jonathan Francis may be adjudged to pay the whole residue (unless discharged of this debt by the United States Bankruptcy Court), or so much thereof as the Court may determine to be just and equitable, of the debt remaining unsatisfied after a sale of the mortgaged premises and the application of the proceeds pursuant to the directions contained in such judgment, and that in the event that Plaintiff possesses any other lien(s) against said mortgage premises either by the way of judgment, junior mortgage or otherwise, Plaintiff requests that such other lien(s) shall not be merged in Plaintiff's cause(s) of action set forth in this complaint but that Plaintiff shall be permitted to enforce said other lien(s) and/or seek determination of priority thereof in any independent action(s) or proceeding(s), including, without limitation, any surplus money proceedings, that an order be entered compelling that the tenants deliver possession of the premises to Plaintiff, and that the Plaintiff may have such other and further relief, or both, in the premises, as may be just and equitable.

Dated: April 18, 2022  
Syosset, New York

Yours, etc.  
The Margolin & Weinreb Law Group, LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Alan H. Weinreb  
Alan H. Weinreb, Esq.



**VERIFICATION BY ATTORNEY**

**ALAN H. WEINREB**, an attorney duly admitted to practice before the courts of this state and associated with the attorneys of record for the plaintiff, affirms under the penalties of perjury that: I have read the foregoing Complaint and the same is true to my own knowledge except as to matters alleged to upon information and belief as to those matters I believe them to be true. The grounds of my belief as to matters not based upon personal knowledge are communications with plaintiff or officers and/or agents of plaintiff and copies of plaintiff's records in my possession. This affirmation is made by me because plaintiff is not in a county in which my firm has its office.

Dated: April 18, 2022  
Syosset, New York

/s/ Alan H. Weinreb  
**ALAN H. WEINREB**